

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A wall structure comprising: a pair of opposed members; a plurality of spaced apart studs connected between the opposed members; openings formed in respective studs; and ~~at least one diagonal brace~~ a pair of diagonal braces with each diagonal brace extending through the openings of within said studs.
2. (Currently Amended) The wall structure of claim 1 wherein the wall structure includes opposed corner areas, and wherein ~~the~~ each diagonal brace extending through the openings within the studs is connected between the opposed corner areas.
3. Canceled.
4. (Currently Amended) The wall structure of claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ at least one diagonal brace comprises an elongated rod.
5. The wall structure of claim 4 wherein the wall structure includes opposed corner areas and wherein the elongated rod is connected between the opposed corner areas.
6. The wall structure of claim 5 including four corner areas and a pair of diagonal rods with each rod extending through openings within respective studs and connected between two opposed corner areas.
7. (Currently Amended) The wall structure of claim 1 including a pair of sides and a central area disposed between the sides, and wherein ~~the~~ each diagonal brace extends through the central area of the wall structure.

8. The wall structure of claim 7 wherein there is provided a pair of diagonal braces extending through the central area of the wall structure.

9. (Currently Amended) The wall structure of claim 1 wherein the wall structure includes opposed corner areas and wherein ~~the~~ at least one diagonal brace includes opposite end portions with each end portion being connected to a corner area through a connector.

10. The wall structure of claim 9 wherein the diagonal brace is connected to the connector so as to maintain the diagonal brace in tension.

11. The wall structure of claim 10 including a spring operative to exert a tensioning force on the brace member.

12. The wall structure of claim 10 wherein the diagonal brace is connected to the connector so as to maintain the diagonal brace in tension substantially at all times.

13. The wall structure of claim 9 wherein each connector is anchored between a stud and one of the opposed members.

14. The wall structure of claim 9 wherein each connector includes a plate structure that comprises two spaced apart members that eventually merge.

15. The wall structure of claim 14 wherein the spaced apart members extend from the brace and merge prior to being anchored between one stud and one of the opposed members.

16. (Currently Amended) A wall structure comprising:
- an upper member;
 - a lower member;
 - a series of spaced apart studs connected between the upper and lower members;
 - openings provided in a plurality of the studs;
 - a pair of diagonal braces extending through the openings within the stud, and wherein the openings within the studs are spaced such that the diagonal braces can extend between opposed corner areas of the wall structure;
 - a pair of connectors connected to opposite ends of ~~the~~ each brace and extending therefrom to where the connectors connect to the opposed corner areas of the wall structure; and
 - wherein each connector is secured between one stud and either the upper or lower member.
17. (Currently Amended) The wall structure of claim 16 wherein ~~the~~ each brace comprises an elongated member.
18. The wall structure of claim 17 wherein the elongated member includes a rigid shaft.
19. The wall structure of claim 18 wherein the shaft includes opposed threaded ends and wherein each end of the shaft projects through an opening within one connector and wherein each connector is secured to the shaft by a retainer threaded onto the shaft and which is operative to secure the connector to the shaft.

20. The wall structure of claim 16 wherein each connector includes a pair of plates secured together to form a triangular configuration and wherein the triangular configuration projects from the brace towards the corner area where the connector is secured to the wall structure.

21. The wall structure of claim 20 wherein the connector further includes a tail section where the plates come together and extend between one of the studs and either the upper member or lower member.

22. Canceled.

23. (Currently Amended) The wall structure of claim [22] 16 wherein each connector extends from one end ~~portion~~ portion of each brace to a connection point in the wall structure, each connector including a first generally triangular shaped section and a second tail section where the tail section extends between one stud and the upper or lower member of the wall structure.

24. The wall structure of claim 16 wherein the wall structure includes a pair of opposed sides and a central area extending between the opposed sides, and wherein the brace extends through the central area of the wall structure.

25. (Currently Amended) A wall structure comprising: a pair of opposed members; a series of spaced apart studs connected between the opposed members; openings formed in a plurality of the studs; ~~at least one rigid member extending through the openings of the studs and extending between opposed corner areas of the wall structure~~ a pair of rigid members extending through the openings within the studs with the pair of rigid members extending generally diagonally through the wall structure such that each rigid member extends between opposed

corner areas of the wall structure; and a connector attached to opposite ends of ~~the~~ each rigid member, each connector being secured to a corner area of the wall structure.

26. Canceled.

27. The wall structure of claim 25 wherein each connector includes a first section extending from the rigid member and a second section attached to the wall structure, the first section including a pair of spaced apart members and wherein the spaced apart members merge and come together to form at least a portion of the second section.

28. The wall structure of claim 27 wherein the second section of the connector extends between one stud and one of the opposed members of the wall structure.

29. The wall structure of claim 28 including a fastener that extends through the second section of the connector and effectively connects the connector to one of the studs and one of the opposed members of the wall structure.

30. (New) A wall structure comprising:

an upper member;

a lower member;

a series of spaced apart studs connected between the upper and lower members;

openings provided in a plurality of the studs;

a diagonal rigid shaft extending through the openings within the stud, and wherein the openings within the studs are spaced such that the brace can extend between opposed corners of the wall structure;

a pair of connectors connected to opposite ends of the shaft and extending therefrom to
where the connectors connect to the opposed corner areas of the walls structure;
wherein each connector is secured between one stud and either the upper or lower
member; and
wherein the shaft includes opposed threaded ends and wherein each end of the shaft
projects through an opening within one connector and wherein each connector is
secured to the shaft by a retainer threaded onto the shaft and which is operative
to secure the connector to the shaft.

31. (New) A wall structure comprising:

an upper member;
a lower member;
a series of spaced apart studs connected between the upper and lower members;
openings provided in a plurality of the studs;
a diagonal brace extending between the openings within the studs, and wherein the
openings within the studs are placed such that the diagonal brace extends
between opposed corner areas of the wall structure;
a pair of connectors connected to opposite ends of each brace and extending therefrom
to where the connectors connect to the opposed corner areas of the wall
structure;
wherein each connector is secured between one stud and either the upper or lower
member; and
wherein each connector includes a pair of plates secured together to form a triangular
configuration and wherein the triangular configuration projects from the brace
towards the corner area where the connector is secured to the wall structure.

32. (New) The wall structure of claim 31 wherein the connector further includes a tail section where the plates come together and extend between one of the studs and either the upper member or the lower member.

33. (New) A wall structure comprising: a pair of opposed members; a series of spaced apart studs connected between the opposed members; openings formed in a plurality of the studs; at least one rigid member extending through the openings of the studs and extending between opposed corner areas of the wall structure; a connector attached to opposite ends of the rigid member, each connector being secured to a corner area of the wall structure; and wherein each connector includes a first section extending from the rigid member and a second section attached to the wall structure, the first section including a pair of spaced apart members and wherein the spaced apart members merge and come together to form at least a portion of the second section.

34. (New) The wall structure of claim 33 wherein the second section of the connector extends between one studs and one of the opposed members of the wall structure.

35. (New) The wall structure of claim 34 including a fastener that extends through the second section of the connector and effectively connects the connector to one of the studs and one of the opposed members of the wall structure.